

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware, and to add an abstract, as required by the Examiner.

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 2 and 16 have been amended to correct the spelling of "branch." Clearly, no new matter has been added.

Submitted herewith are corrected sheets of formal drawing which incorporate the amendments and annotated sheets showing the changes made thereto.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 have been canceled, without prejudice, and claims 32-61 have been added.

New claims 32-61 have been prepared based on the subject matter of now canceled claims 1-8 and 10-31 and clarify the

features of the print vending apparatus (and corresponding method of operating a print vending machine) of the present invention.

In particular, new independent apparatus claims 32, 42 and 55 have been prepared to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the photographic print vending apparatus comprises media accepting means for accepting a recording medium having photographic image information stored thereon, based on the subject matter of now canceled claim 9, and similarly new independent method claim 60 has been prepared to recite the feature of the method of the present invention whereby image information is read from a recording medium removably attached to a print vending machine.

In addition, new independent claims 42, 55 and 57 have been prepared to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the print vending apparatus comprises a plurality of printers and a processor which distributes information to the printers based on a predetermined standard, and similarly new independent method claim 61 has been prepared to recite the feature of the method of the present invention whereby input print information is distributed to at least one of the plurality of printers in accordance with a predetermined standard.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,513,254 ("Markowitz"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 1-31.

Markowitz relates to a facsimile machine which integrates advertisements into transmitted documents.

By contrast, as recited in new independent claims 32, 42, 55, 57, 60 and 61, the present invention relates to a print vending apparatus or method of operating a print vending machine.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that according to the present invention as recited in new independent claims 32, 42, 55 and 60, image information printed by the print vending machine/apparatus is read from a removable recording medium (such as a flash memory card), and is not transmitted from another (facsimile) machine as in Markowitz.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that according to the present invention as recited in new independent claims 42, 55, 57 and 61, input print information is distributed to at least one of the plurality of printers in accordance with a predetermined standard, whereas the facsimile machine of Markowitz does not include a plurality of printers managed by a processor according to a predetermined standard.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the facsimile machine of Markowitz clearly does not correspond to the print vending apparatus and method of operating a print vending machine, as recited in new independent claims 32, 42, 55, 57, 60 and 61. And it is therefore respectfully submitted that new claims 32-61 all patentably distinguish over Markowitz.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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Amendments to the Drawings:

Figs. 2 and 16 have been amended to correct the spelling of "branch."

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

2/25

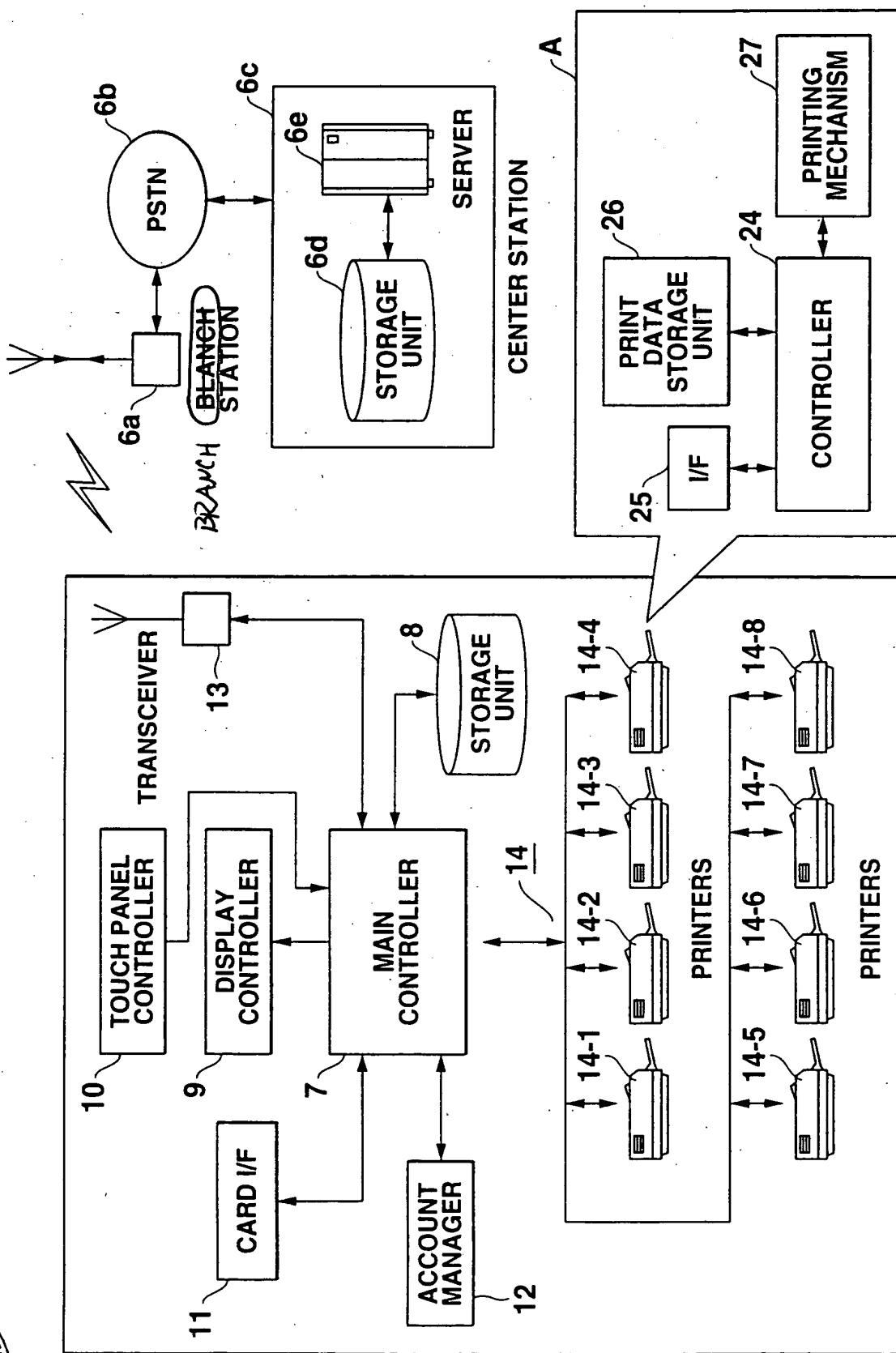


FIG.2

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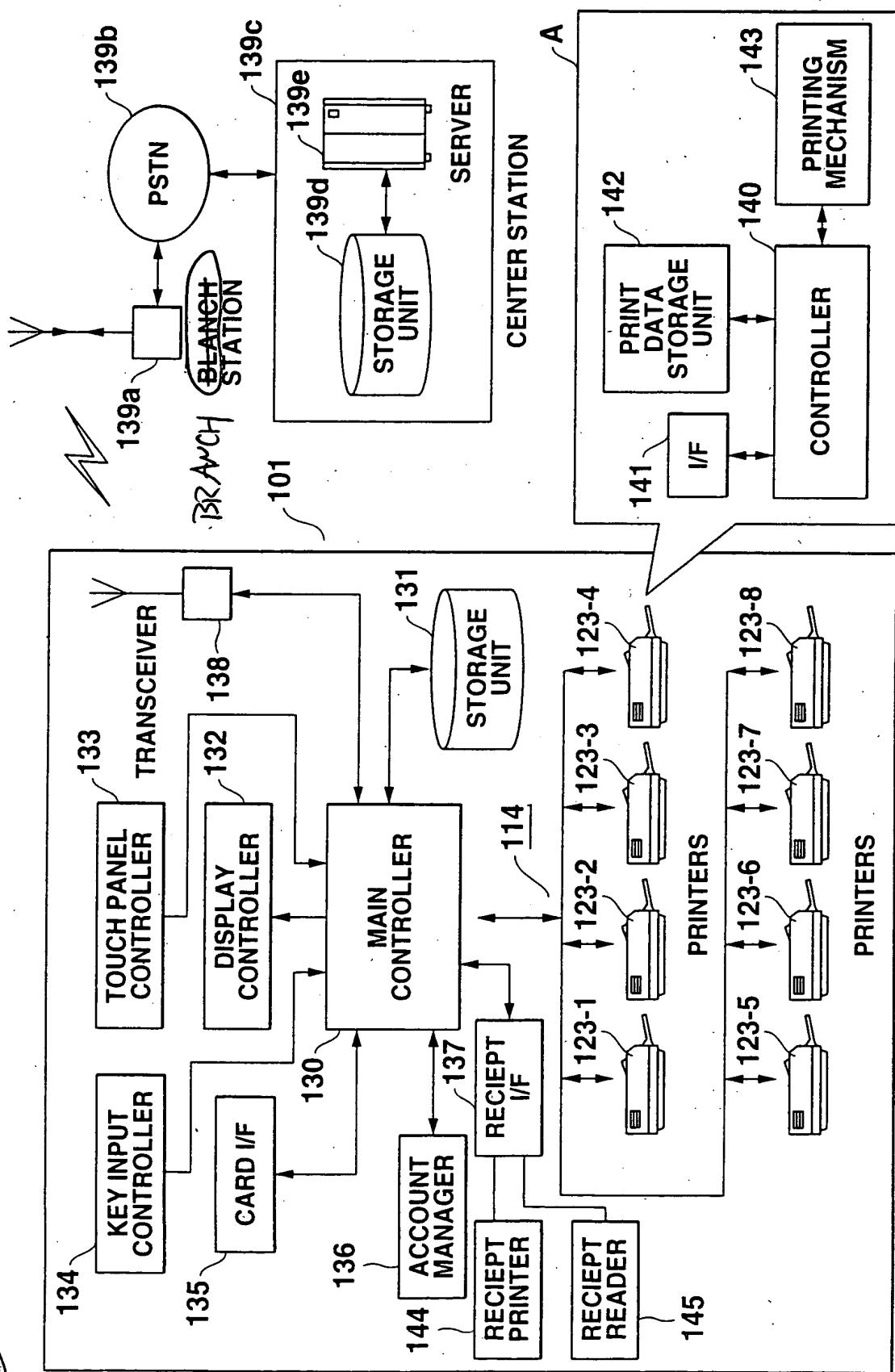


FIG. 16